

Senate Resolution 385

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Unterman of the 45th, Goggans of the 7th, Henson of the 41st, Thomas of the 54th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee for a Georgia Advance Directives Registry; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, "advance directives" for health care have been
4 increasingly embraced by individuals seeking to have their wishes respected at the end of life
5 by the medical community, its facilities, practitioners, clinicians, and first responders; and

6 WHEREAS, all 50 states currently have some version of advance directive legislation
7 reflecting the consensus within the legal, political, and medical communities that patient
8 autonomy and self-determination at the end of life should be recognized and legally
9 protected; and

10 WHEREAS, the absence of a Georgia data base that registers individual's advance directives
11 for health care poses a significant obstacle to the ability of the medical community to follow
12 a patient's end-of-life decisions; and

13 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Georgia registry of advance directives for health care is
14 technologically feasible and is crucial to ensuring compliance with individual decisions and
15 health care accountability.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
17 Study Committee for a Georgia Advance Directives Registry to study the development and
18 administration of a state maintained data base of advance directives for the purpose of
19 ensuring proper notification within the health care community of patient wishes and thereby
20 validate and respect individual dignity and autonomy in end-of-life decisions to be composed
21 of five members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President
22 of the Senate shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.
23 The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
2 needs, and issues mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
3 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
4 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
5 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
6 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
7 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
8 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
9 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The
10 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
11 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
12 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
13 made on or before the convening of the 2008 session of the General Assembly, at which time
14 the committee shall stand abolished.